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WASHINGTONSYSTEM IV  
NSC/ICS 400449

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85-	2062

May 18, 1985

SECRETMEMORANDUM FOR THE HONORABLE CASPAR W. WEINBERGER  
Secretary of DefenseTHE HONORABLE MALCOLM BALDRIGE  
Secretary of Commerce

SUBJECT: Soviet Fishing License (U)

Upon request from the Department of Defense, we have reviewed the proposal to license a joint U.S.-Soviet fishing venture off the U.S. East Coast, with particular concern for the national security aspects of this action. After careful consideration, we believe that it is possible to grant this license contingent upon Soviet acceptance of the following conditions which would minimize the ability of the two Soviet vessels to collect intelligence or conduct other operations inimical to U.S. national security. (C)

Among other possible measures, the following steps should be taken to significantly reduce the Soviet intelligence threat in this case.

- Prohibit all operations in sensitive areas, especially the transit lanes from major naval bases (Norfolk, New London, Newport, etc.).
- During periods of major naval exercises, limit Soviet operations to a small zone outside fleet operating areas.
- Require advance notice prior to the ships entering the EEZ, daily position reports and prior U.S. permission for any major changes in operating area.
- Prior to commencing operations, both Soviet vessels would undergo a complete inspection in a U.S. port.
- Embark a U.S. observer trained to spot possible SIGINT or hydrographic research activity. U.S. observers would be allowed complete access to all areas of the ships, both in port and at sea.
- Prohibit all activity other than fish processing (resupply, survey, etc.).

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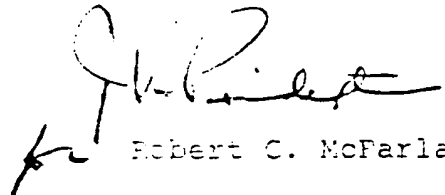
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-- The Soviet Union must agree in writing to these conditions.

The Department of the Navy and NSA will prepare a specific threat assessment so that the area of Soviet ship operation may be identified in order that other prudent communication security measures can be implemented. (S)

The Department of Commerce, with inputs from the Department of Defense and other concerned agencies, should draft a proposal incorporating these points and any others considered necessary which will allow the granting of fishing licenses while substantially reducing national security concerns. This proposal should assign specific agency responsibility for each enumerated measure and the appropriate coordinating mechanism. This proposal should be forwarded to the National Security Council for review in 10 working days from the date of this memorandum. (C)

  
Robert C. McFarlane

cc: Secretary of State  
Secretary of Transportation  
Director of CIA  
Director of NSA

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